

September 13, 2019

To the Members of The Children Families Health and Human Services
Interim Committee:

We, at North Central Independent Living Services, Inc., wish to submit the following statement on HJ 50. NCILS hopes the CFHHS committee will gather and study data on the Community First Choice State Plan and the Big Sky Waiver eligibility processes as well as the Medicaid Fair Hearing processes when disputes happen. NCILS reminds you that our Medicaid programs are supposed to provide services that promote health, and maximize community living by providing community supports for those Montanans with disabilities that need them. These programs are supposed to be member driven based on need. NCILS would like this item to be included in any study of Senior Long term Care and Montana's Home and Community Based Waiver Programs. North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. believes that if these processes are studied from eligibility request to decision and appeal, legislators will see what services have been requested, amended, denied, and restored into member service plans and how the members are able to live and function independently. Legislators should ask how Medicaid member service packages and funding enhance the lives of Montanans of disabilities who utilize Medicaid CFC and Big Sky Waiver Services.

Thank you for your time.

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